

To the Right Honorable the Lord General Fairfax,  
and to his whole Council of War.

The humble Petition of all the people of England that  
are oppressed in judgement, and by injustice ruined in  
their Estates, Rights, and Liberties,

Humbly shew,

**T**HAT before the breaking forth of the late unhappy distractions, the high Court of Parliament was honorably pleased (out of their then sensibility of this Nations groanes and misery) to appoint a grand Committee for the Courts of Justice, to examine and report all oppressions and grievances arising from Judicature: But least the impious sale of Innocents in their Rights and Liberties, and other illegal practises of some (if not of most) in places of Trust, should have been brought to light, that Committee was soon dissolved, and your Petitioners (by those who travell with wickednesse) are still exposed to oppression and destruction in their Estates, Rights, Liberties, and Lives, under the unsupportable burthens of cruell oppression, and to arrogant insulting wills of such, who by endlesse devised formes and formalities, make a trade and sale of injustice and oppression at very high rates, under the vizard and name of Justice and Mercy.

The bane of this Nation in point of Judicature being this, viz. Those who are wronged relying on the Justice of their cause, omit to fee (or bribe) largely, and refuse also to yeeld obedience to injustice, and therefore those that sit in Judicature, often apply themselves to their best and freest clients or Customers, (Defrauders and Oppressors) and having once passed wrong judgement or sentence for them, they then and the Lawyers consenterate together in this, viz. that Judgements, Decrees, Reports, yea, Certificates, though never so erroneous and unjust, must be deemed things sacred and indisputable, yea, to be admired by all, but not to be questioned by any: (A meer Relique of Romes infallible trumpery;) Some of them most impudently also affirming, that better it is for thousands to perish in their estates and lives, then the proceedings of their Courts should become disputable, or the validity of their Judgements and Decrees to be questioned by any; And therefore, rather then they will reverse any of their unjust Decrees, Orders, or Reports, or justly to undo that which another of them hath unjustly done, the lives, liberties, and estates of thousands (innocent men and women) must be sacrificed to their net of oppression, persisting herein also with such boldnesse, for that they know the oppressed have no where to appeal from them for remedy and relief; neither are they liable to any punishment and satisfaction to the parties by them wronged, yea, ruined in their Estates, Rights, and Liberties, whilst this their oppressive power is thus supported by those from whom we have long expected juster things, and by whom the poor also expected to be restored to their Rights long since; by which their continued uncontrolled pressures, they have a-sine drawne downe afresh the threatening hand of Gods heavy judgements upon this Land and Nation.

That according to your severall excellent, primary, declared, just Resolutions, published for the abolishment of all these evills, your Petitioners long since expected by your help an assured thorough reformation and easse off and from all these their oppressive burthens, considering the ends and principles of your first undertaking of an ingagement in this Nations cause; knowing also, that the word was by us from the very first given into your hands for that very end, and purpose, even or the regaining and advance of this Nations Liberty, Peace, and Welfare, in and by the cleer exhortation of Injustice and Oppression, root and branch, to the glory of God, your own honor and eternall comfort.

Your Petitioners therefore still resting in expectation, and well knowing that nothing can unite the hearts and knit the affections of all the people of this Land more firmly unto you, then your reall and faithfull accomplishment of the premises (by us desired, and by you promised) speedily; doe therefore humbly pray, that your Honors will be pleased, most earnestly, uncessantly, and effectually, to move and presse the honorable House, that the said Committee may be forthwith revived, and composed of a select number of conscientious able men, (Lawyers in any case exempted) to examine, hear, and determine, with power to redresse all grievances, as well in proceedings as in judgement, with full reparation to the oppressed, that so this whole Nation may be freed from these heavy pressures, the enslavement of their persons from imprisonment (by the long expected Nationall Act) acquitted, and their just Rights and Liberties truly and speedily restored, IN DEEDS AND NOT IN WORDS: the accomplishment of all which is by us expected before your with-drawing from this City, that so the blessing of him that dwelt in the Bush may be your conductor, protector, and director, in all your enterprises.

What is more honorable then to advance justice, and to supprese injustice and oppression? Yea, what more pleasing to God, and advantagious to a Nation?

One Raven will not pick out anothers eyes.

Witnessse their slighting Parliament Acts, and selling of habeas corpus at high rates, yea, at 3. and 4.l. a piece for a moneth or 5. weeks liberty to a prisoner, yet denying them to poore prisoners.

Why not of deceitful wicked Lawyers, as well as of silly Bishops, root & branch. That Liberty is expected by all is true; that it is never intended by the Lawyers is as true; witnessse their Coalters daily brags to that effect.

For which your Petitioners shall ever pray.